CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for avoiding data loss during network port recovery, said method comprising:

linking a first network port to a second network port via a network, said second network port transmitting data to said first network port via said network;

determining that said first network port needs to be reinitialized; and

prior to said first network port executing a reinitialization process, notifying, by said first network port, said second network port to pause its data transmissions to said first network port.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port;

determining that said first network port has completed its reinitialization process; and

notifying, by said first network port, said second network port to resume its data transmissions to said first network port.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

executing, by said first network port, a re-initialization process while said second network port pauses its data transmissions to said first network port.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

providing, by said first network port, a timer value to said second network port prior to said first network port beginning its re-initialization process; and

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port until said timer value expires.

6. The method according claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

determining that said timer value has expired;

in response to determining that said timer value has expired, determining whether said first network port has completed its re-initialization process;

in response to a determination that said first network port has not completed its re-initialization process, providing a second timer value to said second network port; and

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port until said second timer value expires.

7. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

determining that said timer value has expired;

in response to determining that said timer value has expired, determining whether said first network port has completed its re-initialization process;

in response to a determination that said first network port has completed its re-initialization process, providing a third timer value to said second network port;

resuming, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port upon a receipt of said third timer value.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

said third timer value being a value of zero.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether said first network port has begun its re-initialization process by checking a current setting of a first flag.

10. A data processing system for avoiding data loss during network port recovery, said system comprising:

a first network port linked to a second network port via a network, said second network port transmitting data to said first network port via said network;

said first network port receiving a reinitialized signal; and

prior to said first network port executing a re-initialization process, said first network port notifying said second network port to pause its data transmissions to said first network port.

11. The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

said second network port pausing data transmissions to said first network port in response to being notified.

12. The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

said second network port pausing data transmissions to said first network port;

said first network port determining that said first network port has completed its re-initialization process; and

said first network port notifying said second network port to resume its data transmissions to said first network port.

13. The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

said first network port executing a re-initialization process while said second network port pauses its data transmissions to said first network port.

14. The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

said first network port providing a timer value to said second network port prior to said first network port beginning its re-initialization process; and

said second network port pausing data transmissions to said first network port until said timer value expires.

15. The system according claim 14, further comprising:

said first network port determining that said timer value has expired;

in response to determining that said timer value has expired, said first network port determining whether it has completed its re-initialization process;

in response to a determination that said first network port has not completed its re-initialization process, said first network port providing a second timer value to said second network port; and

said second network port pausing data transmissions to said first network port until said second timer value expires.

16. The system according to claim 14, further comprising:

said first network port determining that said timer value has expired;

in response to determining that said timer value has expired, said first network port determining whether it has completed its re-initialization process;

in response to a determination that said first network port has completed its re-initialization process, said first network port providing a third timer value to said second network port; and

said second network port resuming data transmissions to said first network port upon a receipt of said third timer value.

17. The system according to claim 16, further comprising:

said third timer value being a value of zero.

18. The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

a first flag for determining whether said first network port has begun its re-initialization process.

19. A computer program product for avoiding data loss during network port recovery, said product comprising:

instruction means for linking a first network port to a second network port via a network, said second network port transmitting data to said first network port via said network;

instruction means for determining that said first network port needs to be reinitialized;

prior to said first network port executing a re-initialization process, instruction means for notifying, by said first network port, said second network port to pause its data transmissions to said first network port; and

pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port.

20. The product according to claim 19, further comprising:

instruction means for pausing, by said second network port, data transmissions to said first network port;

instruction means for determining that said first network port has completed its re-initialization process; and

instruction means for notifying, by said first network port, said second network port to resume its data transmissions to said first network port.